



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

Raised Bill No. 7178

LCO No. 4285



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced by:
(VA)

***AN ACT CONCERNING WINDSHIELD PLACARDS FOR CERTAIN
VETERANS WITH POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 14-253a of the general
2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

4 (a) For the purposes of this section:

5 (1) "Special license plate" means a license plate displaying the
6 symbol of access in a size identical to that of the letters or numerals on
7 the plate and in a color that contrasts with the background color of the
8 plate;

9 (2) "Removable windshield placard" means a two-sided, hanger-
10 style placard which bears on both of its sides: (A) The symbol of access
11 in a height of three inches or more centered on such placard and
12 colored white on a blue background; (B) a unique identification
13 number; (C) a date of expiration; and (D) a statement indicating that

14 the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles issued such placard;

15 (3) "Temporary removable windshield placard" means a placard
16 that is the same as a removable windshield placard except that the
17 symbol of access appears on a red background;

18 (4) "Person with disabilities" means a person with disabilities which
19 limit or impair the ability to walk, as defined in 23 CFR Section 1235.2,
20 and a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, who has
21 post-traumatic stress disorder certified as service-connected by the
22 United States Department of Veterans Affairs; and

23 (5) "Symbol of access" means the symbol designated by the
24 Commissioner of Administrative Services pursuant to section 29-269b
25 used to indicate access for persons with disabilities.

26 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall accept applications
27 and renewal applications for removable windshield placards from (1)
28 any person who is blind, as defined in section 1-1f; (2) any person with
29 disabilities; (3) any parent or guardian of any person who is blind or
30 any person with disabilities, if such person is under eighteen years of
31 age at the time of application; (4) any parent or guardian of any person
32 who is blind or any person with disabilities, if such person is unable to
33 request or complete an application; and (5) any organization which
34 meets criteria established by the commissioner and which certifies to
35 the commissioner's satisfaction that the vehicle for which a placard is
36 requested is primarily used to transport persons who are blind or
37 persons with disabilities. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this
38 section, on and after October 1, 2011, the commissioner shall not accept
39 applications for special license plates, but shall accept renewal
40 applications for such plates that were issued prior to October 1, 2011.
41 No person shall be issued a placard in accordance with this section
42 unless such person is the holder of a valid motor vehicle operator's
43 license, or identification card issued in accordance with the provisions
44 of section 1-1h. The commissioner is authorized to adopt regulations

45 for the issuance of placards to persons who, by reason of hardship, do
46 not hold or cannot obtain an operator's license or identification card.
47 The commissioner shall maintain a record of each placard issued to
48 any such person. Such applications and renewal applications shall be
49 on a form prescribed by the commissioner. In the case of persons with
50 disabilities, the application and renewal application shall include: (A)
51 Certification by a licensed physician, a physician assistant, or an
52 advanced practice registered nurse licensed in accordance with the
53 provisions of chapter 378, that the applicant is disabled; or (B)
54 certification by a licensed physician, a physician assistant, an advanced
55 practice registered nurse licensed in accordance with the provisions of
56 chapter 378, or a member of the driver training unit for persons with
57 disabilities established pursuant to section 14-11b, that the applicant
58 meets the definition of a person with a disability which limits or
59 impairs the ability to walk, as defined in 23 CFR Section 1235.2. In the
60 case of persons who are blind, the application or renewal application
61 shall include certification of legal blindness made by the Department
62 of Rehabilitation Services, an ophthalmologist or an optometrist. Any
63 person who makes a certification required by this subsection shall sign
64 the application or renewal application under penalty of false statement
65 pursuant to section 53a-157b. The commissioner, in said
66 commissioner's discretion, may accept the discharge papers of a
67 disabled veteran, as defined in section 14-254, in lieu of such
68 certification. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may require
69 additional certification at the time of the original application or at any
70 time thereafter. If a person who has been requested to submit
71 additional certification fails to do so within thirty days of the request,
72 or if such additional certification is deemed by the Commissioner of
73 Motor Vehicles to be unfavorable to the applicant, the commissioner
74 may refuse to issue or, if already issued, suspend or revoke such
75 special license plate or placard. The commissioner shall not issue more
76 than one placard per applicant. The fee for the issuance of a temporary
77 removable windshield placard shall be five dollars. Any person whose
78 application has been denied or whose special license plate or placard

79 has been suspended or revoked shall be afforded an opportunity for a
80 hearing in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	14-253a(a) and (b)
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Statement of Purpose:

To permit veterans suffering from service-connected post-traumatic stress disorder to apply for and receive a windshield placard allowing such veterans to park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]